

the heating portion (4) for heating the device, and coolers (28), in particular heat exchangers, for cooling the blowing fluid are situated at this location in the cooling portion (5).

15. (Currently Amended) The device as set forth in ~~at least one of claims 9 to claim~~ 14, characterised in that the individual zones of the device are demarcated from each other by intermediate bases made of sheet metal (26) which are formed as trapezium metal sheets.

16. (Currently Amended) The device as set forth in claim 15, characterised in that said intermediate bases made of trapezium sheet metal (26) for reducing the temperature equalisation between adjacent zones is provided on at least one side with layers made of thermal insulation material (27).

17. (Currently Amended) The device as set forth in ~~at least one of claims 1 to~~ 16, characterised in that the stabilising nozzle system consists of nozzle panes which are consecutive in the direction of the run of the web and comprise nozzle openings made of round holes and/or slit nozzles, whose width - measured parallel to the direction of the run of the web - changes over the width of the nozzle field - measured perpendicular to the direction of the run of the web, and in that the nozzle panes are at least partially bordered at their circumference by slit nozzles.

18. (Currently Amended) The device as set forth in ~~at least one of claims 1 to~~ ~~17~~ claim 16, characterised in that the gas-tight outer skin (30) on its inner side comprise a wall design which from the outside in is composed as follows:

- a) outer layers (32) made primarily of fibres containing silicon dioxide SiO₂;
- b) a foil (33) made of a refractory material, in particular a nickel-chromium-alloy;
- c) layers of fibre mat (34) made of aluminum oxide Al₂O₃;
- d) a film (33) made of a highly refractory material, in particular a nickel-chromium alloy;
- e) a perforated sheet metal cover (35), consisting of a small-format, partially overlapping perforated metal sheets;

wherein the individual layers of said wall design are held by spearing them onto pins (31) attached to the inner wall of the gas-tight outer skin (30), and corresponding attachment platelets (36) are slid onto said pins once the design described above has been put in place.

19. (New) The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein said low-density protective gas is a nitrogen hydrogen mixture with a high proportion of hydrogen.

20. (New) The device of claim 18, wherein said foil and said film each comprises a nickel-chromium alloy.